

It appears that the usual condition in the case of *Erythronium americanum* is for the stamens to be of two distinct lengths and that a *mutation* has occurred in a number of our texts rather than in nature.

The same characteristic holds true for *Erythronium albidum* and for the two Pacific coast species, *E. citrinum* and *E. giganteum*. On the other hand it appears, as well as can be ascertained from preserved herbarium material, that *E. hendersoni*, collected in Oregon, *E. obtusatum*, collected in Montana and Idaho, and *E. parviflorum*, collected in Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Colorado, possess stamens all of equal length.

In this case the value of a photograph over an artist's sketch for scientific purposes seems evident. A small amount of "poetic licence" is almost sure to creep in somewhere to spoil the scientific accuracy of the drawing unless a careful checking up system is followed. The continued propagation of an error is also an unfortunate incident. Such a simple fact in regard to one of our very common spring flowers, it seems, should have been recognized before. It is too often true that the common things about us are deemed beneath our attention.

That our common eastern species should differ from at least three western species in the form of their stamens seems interesting as well as the fact that two Pacific coast forms should be similar. The remaining North American species should be checked over for the stamen characters and a comparison made from various localities.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y.

## WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

### PUBLIC PARKS AS PRESERVERS OF NATIVE PLANTS\*

Mr. Jensen has been advocating, for a number of years, the use of native plants for ornamental planting, not only for the purpose of education and pleasure, but for the sake of the native fruits and their value as food for the birds that are so helpful in con-

\* By L. P. Jensen, Proc. 17th Annual Convention of the American Assoc. of Park Supts., San Francisco, Cal., 1915.

trolling destructive insects. This paper contains a list of plants which need protection in the vicinity of St. Louis, Missouri and the principal reasons for the destruction and consequent disappearance of native plants. The discussion which followed its presentation was participated in by Mr. Merkel, Supt. of the New York Zoological Park and Mr. Morley, who stated that at San Diego, California, certain portions of the park system will be kept wild and that all park systems should take care of the native flora! This is a hopeful sign of appreciation and help from those who are best able to give it.

In the Conservation number of the Tropic magazine published at Miami, Florida, Charles T. Simpson, a veteran naturalist and traveller, has published an article on "Paradise Key." This is a hammock or island of hardwood trees in the everglades about fifty miles south and west from Miami and about midway to Cape Sable. This interesting tract is over a mile long and includes 60 or more species of trees growing wild, of which nearly a hundred are tall royal palms, rising above the level of the forest. This tract has been acquired as a public park and rechristened Royal Palm State Park. Mr. Charles Mosier has been placed in charge as caretaker and the members of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs are taking an active interest, not only in its preservation as a wild tract of land but also in the protection of the birds in the Cuthbert Lake Bird Sanctuary. Dr. Small and Mr. Simpson have visited the Royal Palm Hammock and a list of over fifty species of trees have been published. The article is illustrated by photographs.

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### SHORTER NOTES

BAPTISIA PERFOLIATA IN FLORIDA? The leguminous genus *Baptisia* is noteworthy for containing a considerable number of well-marked species of rather restricted distribution. One of the most striking in appearance is *B. perfoliata* (L.) R. Br., whose recorded range is in the coastal plain from west-central South Carolina to Appling County, Georgia. It is a "tumble-